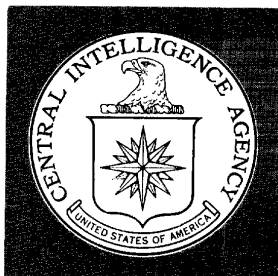


~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA / WIND 760516



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 16 May 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

For the President Only

~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

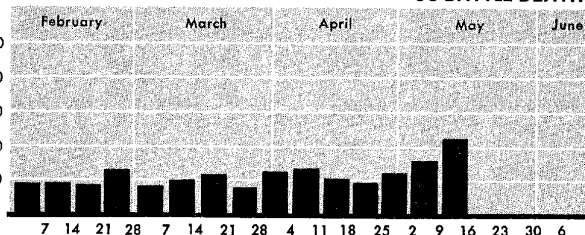
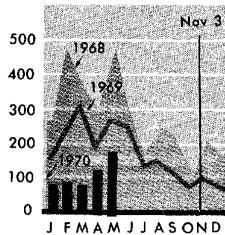
Weekly average for each month

FEBRUARY - MAY 1970

Weekly data as reported

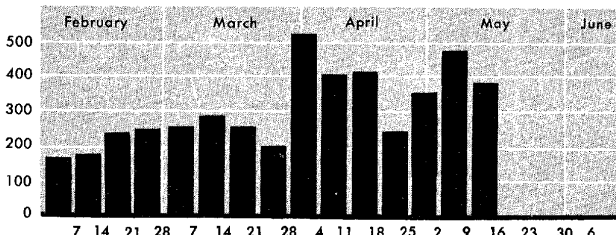
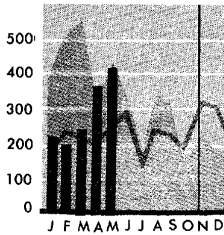
US BATTLE DEATHS

reflected operations into Cambodia as they increased to 218 from last week's 168.



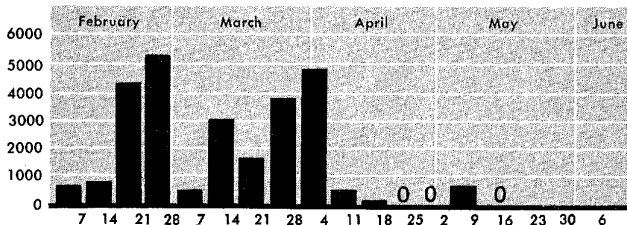
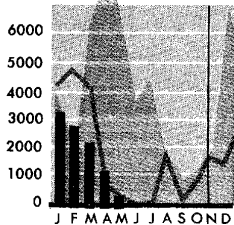
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

declined to 380 from last week's 481. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than figures released to the press by the GVN.



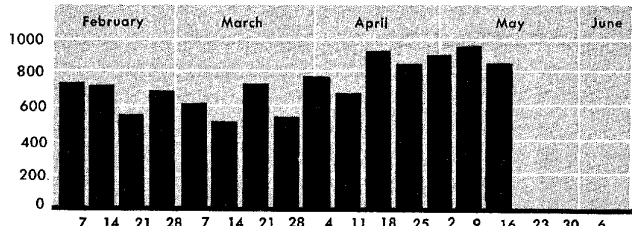
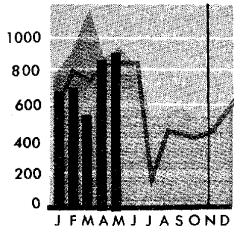
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

stand at five small specialist groups with an estimated total strength of less than 100. Based on refined estimates, the total number of infiltrators since 23 October now stands at some 58,000-59,500.



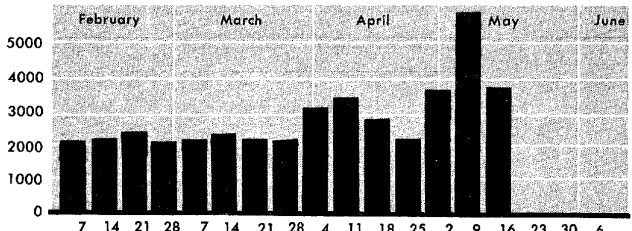
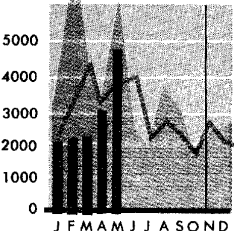
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

dropped to 822 from last week's 987, as the enemy prepares for another upsurge in activity.



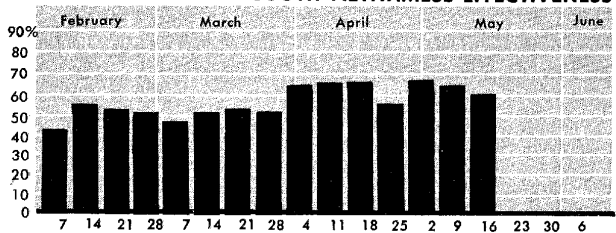
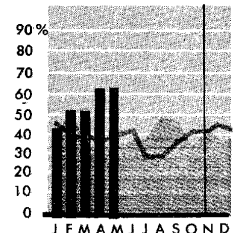
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

decreased to 3,737 from last week's high of 5,898.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by RVN forces dipped to 60% from last week's 66%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

This week, enemy-initiated activity was still characterized by scattered attacks by fire and limited ground contacts, but the overall level of such activity generally decreased. Earlier reporting had pointed to preparations for increased attacks in honor of Ho Chi Minh's birthday (19 May), but the Communist timetable has apparently slipped. The enemy will almost certainly continue his preparations for a higher level of political and terrorist activity along with scattered attacks on the pacification and Vietnamization programs during the remainder of the month.

In Laos, the advent of the rainy season has hampered both friendly air support and enemy ground operations. No significant contacts were made during the week, but pressure has been maintained by the Communists, particularly in south Laos.

Allied drives into enemy base areas in Cambodia, which continue to encounter only light resistance, are discovering significant volumes of materiel. Inside Cambodia itself, the Communists are consolidating their control in the east and northeast through increased attacks on key towns. To the south, the new Allied drive from the Delta apparently is relieving pressure on a number of beleaguered Cambodian positions.

Enemy Infiltration

The lull in enemy troop infiltration continues with the only detected movement during the week consisting of five small specialist groups. Recently acquired data revealed the movement of three new four-digit groups during the previous week, but all three are believed to have entered the pipeline prior to 8 April.

Increasing indications have been noted that the North Vietnamese plan to leave at least part of their logistics apparatus in Laos through the rainy season. This would give the Communists the capability of replacing at least part of their Cambodian materiel losses and would leave open the option of renewing troop infiltration prior to the next dry season.

South Vietnam Developments

Tension between the two contending Buddhist factions is running high in the wake of the recent struggle in Saigon for possession of the National Buddhist Shrine. There is a possibility that disturbances will break out during or following the celebrations of Buddha's birthday on 19 May. The government has warned both factions against further violence, and the strict security measures it has established should enable it to maintain at least surface control of this immediate situation.

President Thieu has directed the Prime Minister to develop a "Special Pacification and Development Plan" to be conducted during the period 1 July - 31 October. The plan will focus on economic and social development, but will also emphasize information programs, village and hamlet self-defense, improved coordination among military forces, rapid trial of VC suspects, and special training for technical cadre. The plan should revitalize the pacification program which has shown signs of slowing down in recent months. The decline in April HES results reflected the enemy's 1 April upsurge in activity and the highest rate of terrorist incidents in any month since Tet 1968.

Communist Developments

Hanoi's initial indecision on how to respond to the US/GVN actions in Cambodia has apparently been resolved in favor of the more militant response advocated by the Chinese. Although Hanoi is maintaining a consistent public stance in playing up support from both countries, available evidence suggests that the North Vietnamese have opted for a hard-line policy. Hanoi is playing up its objections to recent proposals for a wider conference on Indochina, and the departure of Xuan Thuy from Paris also suggests that the negotiating track is not to be emphasized for the time being.

Other Major Developments

As expected, the 12-nation meeting at Djakarta has issued a low-keyed communique calling for political and diplomatic measures to bring about a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia, reconstitution of the International Control Commission, and an early convening of an international conference. Despite the lack of military and financial proposals as desired by Cambodia, the conference served a number of useful purposes. As the first political conference at Asian initiative since 1955, it gave momentum to the concept of "Asian solutions to Asian problems," gave Japan an opportunity to take a more active role in regional political problems, and provided a psychological boost for the Lon Nol regime.

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